

His Honor the President's SPEECH

At the opening of the present Session of the Legislature---the Answer of both Houses thereto---the Address of the House of Assembly to his Honor the President, congratulating him upon his accession to the Government, &c. with his Answer---the Address of the Inhabitants of York to his Excellency Sir GEORGE PRESTON, Bart. with his Answer.

YORK, 8th MARCH, 1813.

On Thursday the 25th February, His Honor ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, Esq. President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding his Majesty's Forces therein, accompanied by a numerous suite, proceeded to the Government Buildings and opened the present Session of the Legislature, when he was pleased to deliver the following Speech to both Houses:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, And Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I afford me the highest satisfaction that for the first time I am called upon to address you in this place. I have to offer you my cordial congratulations on the uniform success which has crowned his Majesty's Arms in this Province. The enemy has been foiled in repeated attempts to invade it.—Three of his Armies have been surrendered, or completely defeated, and Two important Fortresses have been wrested from him.

In this Glorious Campaign, the Valour and Discipline of his Majesty's regular Forces, have been nobly supported by the Zeal and Bravery of our Loyal Militia.

Successing to the administration of the Government of this Province upon the lamented death of Major-General Brock, who so nobly fell in its defence, it is grateful to me to announce to you the high sense of the Services of that able and Gallant Officer, manifested by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in his Majesty's name, to associate him to the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

I have also the gratification of communicating to you, that his Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to signify, "That the liberal appropriations which have been made by the Legislatures of both of the Canadas, to meet the expenses of the occasion, and the determined spirit of resistance manifested by the loyal Inhabitants, leave little apprehension on the result of any trial in which they may

"be called to prove their courage and perseverance."

Honorable Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I shall direct to be laid before you, the ordinary accounts of the Public Receipt and Expenditure, as also of the Fund granted in the last Session, to be disposed of in the Defence of the Province against his Majesty's enemies; and I feel confident that you will continue an appropriation for a similar purpose.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

Doubts have been suggested as to the sufficiency of the late Crops to supply the probable wants of the Colony, it may be a proper object of your consideration to devise some means to controul the export of grain, and the consumption of it in distillation should circumstances require it during the recess of the Legislature.

The meritorious services of the Militia, under privations which they unavoidably suffered, in an arduous and protracted Campaign, entitle them to the gratitude of the Country and to your particular attention.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, has been pleased to order clothing for a considerable proportion of the Embodied Militia of this Province; but as this does not extend to all the necessaries requisite to the Soldier's comfort, I recommend to you the allowance of a sum to each Volunteer or Draft from the Militia, to provide an Outfit.

I think it proper to call your attention to the continuation of certain laws of essential importance to this Province, now about to expire, and to recommend to your consideration whether a revision of some parts of the Militia Act now in force, may not be necessary to render it more efficient. I particularly request to be authorized to pay in advance, half yearly, the annuity granted to Widows and children, and to Persons disabled in the Service.

You will learn with great satisfaction, that the most vigorous measures have been adopted under the direction

of the Commander of the Forces, and are now in operation, to strengthen the Provincial Marine, and preserve the superiority on the Lakes, so essential to the safety of the Province.

It must be unnecessary for me particularly to recommend dispatch in your deliberations, I will only add, that you may rely on my hearty co-operation in any measure which may conduce to the welfare and security of the Province.

ADDRESS of the Legislative Council in Answer to his Honor the President's SPEECH.

To His Honor ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, Esquire, President Administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces within the same.

May it please your Honor,

WE His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of the Province of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, offer to you our thanks for your Speech at the opening of this Session of the Legislature.

We participate with your Honor in the satisfaction which every loyal subject must feel, from the uniform success, which has crowned his Majesty's Arms in this Province. The armies of the enemy that have been defeated, and the Fortresses which have been taken, are glorious proofs of the valour and discipline of his Majesty's Regular Forces, nobly supported by the bravery of our loyal Militia.

It is with the deepest regret that with your Honor, we lament the death of your illustrious Predecessor, Major General Brock, who gloriously fell in the defence of this Province, and whose achievements there, have left impressions never to be effaced. We rejoice that the Services of that able and gallant officer, have been highly appreciated by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in his Majesty's name, to associate him to the

most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

It affords us additional satisfaction, that his Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to signify, that the liberal appropriations which have been made by the Legislatures of both the Canadas, and the determined spirit of resistance manifested by the loyal inhabitants, leave little apprehension of the result of any trial, when they may be called upon to prove their courage and perseverance. We hope and trust that the sentiments expressed by his Royal Highness respecting us, will be fully verified by our conduct.

Our warmest acknowledgements are due to his Excellency the Commander of the Forces, for having ordered clothing for a considerable proportion of our embodied Militia, and we are confident that this mark of his humanity and kindness, will still further excite that determined spirit of resistance, which that body of men have hitherto so nobly manifested.

Highly sensible of the meritorious services, of our Militia, labouring under privations which they unavoidably have suffered in an arduous and protracted campaign, we will most heartily concur with the other branches of the Legislature, in such measures as may best contribute to their comfort, and administer to their necessities.

We will pay particular attention to the continuation of such Laws as are of essential importance, and are about to expire, and will carefully revise such parts of the Militia Act now in force as may be necessary, to render it still more efficient and salutary.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we learn, that the most vigorous measures have been adopted under the direction of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces, and are now in operation, to strengthen the Provincial Marine, and to preserve the superiority of the Lakes, so essential to our safety and protection.

A co operation with your Honor in such measures as may conduce to the welfare and security of the Province, animates us with the hope, that we shall be enabled to continue in that glorious career of victory in which we have begun, and by the blessing of God, defend our Country against our enemies, and transmit our Laws, our Liberty and our Constitution to the latest posterity.

THOS. SCOTT,

Speaker.

Legislative Council Chamber,
Ottawa, the 21st May 1813.

To which His Honor was pleased to make the following Reply:

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,

Accept my thanks for your Address; it manifests a spirit of loyalty and patriotism which cannot fail to be highly gratifying.

I feel confident of your cheerful aid and concurrence in whatsoever can promote the Public welfare, and that your attention will be particularly directed to those measures which can most effectually contribute towards the security of the Province.

2nd March, 1813.

ADDRESS of the House of Assembly in Answer to His Honor the Governor's SPEECH.

To His Honor ROGER HALE SHERIFF, Esquire, President Administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein. May it Please your Honor,

WE, his Majesty's most dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, request your Honor to accept of our humble thanks for your most gracious Speech.

We participate in the satisfaction expressed by your Honor at having it in your power on the first time you are called upon to address us, to offer your cordial congratulations on the uniform success which has crowned His Majesty's Arms in this Province.

That the Enemy has been foiled in his machinations against it; that three of his Armies have been surrendered or completely defeated, and that two important Fortresses have been wrested from him, are to us sources of the highest satisfaction.

It is with pride and exultation we learn, that the valour and discipline of his Majesty's regular Forces (so nobly displayed) in the defence of this Province, have been ably supported by the zeal and bravery of our Militia, and we feel confident, that while the Enemy shall continue his hostile attempts, the exertions of our regular and Militia Forces under the direction of your Honor, will be attended with uniform success.

The death of our late most Gallant and lamented President, Major General BROCK, who so nobly fell while contending against a superior force of our Enemies in defence of this Province, has excited in us feelings of sorrow and regret, and while we lament our inability to bestow on his great and distinguished merits, any other reward than our praise; we learn with the greatest satisfaction the high sentiments of our services of that able and Gallant

Officer manifested by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in his Majesty's name to associate him to the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

We are happy to perceive the favorable impression which the liberal appropriations of the Legislature of the two Canadas, and the determined resistance manifested by the loyal inhabitants have made on his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and with him we think that little apprehension need be entertained of the result of any trial in which they may be called to prove their courage and perseverance.

When the Public Accounts are laid before us, we will pay that attention to them that the nature of the subject requires, and shall always be happy to afford every means in our power, to assist in the defence of the Province.

We are much concerned to learn that doubts have been suggested as to the sufficiency of the late Crop to supply the probable wants of the Colony, if the exportation and distillation of Grain be uncontrolled. We shall give to such a subject of so much moment, our most serious consideration, and shall endeavour to provide such remedy as the emergency may appear to require.

We are perfectly sensible of the meritorious services of the Militia of this Province, and although they must, in a contest like the present, unavoidably suffer privations, still when they consider the great object for which they contend, they will be convinced that their sufferings are inevitable. Their situation demands our most serious attention.

We feel highly gratified to learn, that His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to order clothing for a considerable proportion of the Militia, and we will be happy to contribute every thing in our power towards their comfort.

We shall direct our attention to the Laws about to expire, and shall endeavour to make such amendments to the Militia Act now in force, as may be necessary to render it more efficient.

Your Honor's request to be enabled to pay in advance half yearly, the annuity granted to Widows and Children and Persons disabled in the Service, is a proof of the humanity so conspicuous in your Character; and it will be highly pleasing to us, to comply with your Honor's request.

We learn with the highest satisfaction, that the most vigorous measures have been adopted, under the direction of the Commander of the Forces,

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and are now in operation to strengthen the Provincial Marine and preserve the superiority on the Lakes, so essential to the safety of this Province.

We are perfectly sensible that dispatch in our deliberations is at this juncture particularly necessary, and we beg leave to assure your Honor that we have the utmost confidence in your Honor's administration and in your well known exertions for the defence of the Province, and the safety and prosperity of its inhabitants.

ALLAN M'LEAN, Speaker.

Common House of Assembly,
York, 26th February, 1813.

To which His Honor was pleased to make the following Reply.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for this Address, so cordially responsive to my own sentiments.

The confidence you express in the successful resistance to any future attempts of the enemy on this Province, is a further pledge of the loyalty and bravery of his Majesty's subjects, and which, with the assurance you give of contributing every means in your power to aid them in its defence, cannot but be highly satisfactory.

27th February, 1813.

ADDRESS from the House of Assembly to his Honor the President, congratulating him upon his accession to the Government, and his success in repelling the attempts of the Enemy upon this Province.

To his Honor Roger Hale Sheaffe, President, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding his Majesty's Forces therein, Esq. &c.

May it please your Honor,

WE his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, deeply impressed with the highest sentiments of respect towards your person, beg leave to approach your Honor at a juncture so interesting and important to the welfare of this part of his Majesty's dominions, and to congratulate your Honor upon your accession to the supreme executive authority of the Civil, as well as the Military administration of the Government of this Province, at the same time we cannot refrain from deploring the event which deprived this favored Colony of one of its brightest ornaments, and our Mother Country of an invaluable Officer in the death of your Predecessor. It affords us however, a consolation and alleviates the poignancy of our sorrow for the loss of so esteemed a Chief, that in his Successor those qualities are found

which have been so successfully exerted by him to repel an inveterate invading Enemy, conciliate the affections of all—and maintain the true spirit and character of Englishmen.

We are not insensible to the many arduous and perplexing difficulties which have pressed upon your Honor, in civil as well as military concerns, and it is with the most lively heartfelt satisfaction we express our sincere conviction of the wisdom and policy with which you have performed them since the reins of Government devolved upon you—and in a particular manner we feel it a duty incumbent upon us as the Representative Body of this Colony, to set forth to the People at large our warmest approbation of the military skill displayed by your Honor on every occasion, and the great solicitude always manifested on your part to mitigate the hardships to which our loyal and brave Militia were inevitably exposed—and further to state to your Honor, that we feel the strongest and most unlimited confidence in your future exertions of energy and of conduct to preserve to us unimpaired the happy Constitution under which we have so long lived, and so long been prosperous. That your efforts will be seconded by every individual in this Province to the utmost of his ability, we can have no reason to entertain a doubt, and that continued and ultimate success may crown them under the peculiar guidance of Divine Providence, is our most sincere most ardent hope. Since thus we shall be enabled to transmit to our Posterity in their purity, those invaluable rights, privileges and immunities which our ancestors bled to establish, and so cherished by their descendants, who know as well how to appreciate as to enjoy rational and solid Freedom.

(Signed)

ALLAN MAC LEAN, Speaker,
Common House of Assembly, 24 March, 1813.

To which his Honor was pleased to make the following Reply:

GENTLEMEN,

I receive with the most lively sensibility your congratulations on my having succeeded to the Civil and Military administration of the Government of this Province. I condescend with you on the event which you so justly deplore, having served too long in the line of my able and gallant predecessor, not to have learnt how to estimate his high worth, and to be sensible of the irreparable loss which the Province sustained in being deprived of his services at so important a juncture.

Accept, Gentlemen, my warmest thanks for the expression of your favorable sentiments towards me, and for the confidence you repose in me—by the aid of a kind

Providence the efforts of the Enemy have hitherto been baffled, and I trust that it will still continue to grant its support to us, and to smile on the efforts of a brave and loyal People, who are engaged in the noble task of resisting unjust aggression, and of struggling to protect their families and their farms, and to preserve for themselves and for their posterity, not only their property, but all those precious and inestimable privileges which are enjoyed in this Province as a member of the British Empire: May their exertions in so glorious a cause be crowned with success, and may the blessings of Civil Liberty, Social Order and Happiness flow through successive ages to your descendants pure and uninterrupted.

5th March, 1813.

To Lieutenant General Sir GEORGE PREVOST, Bart. commander of the Forces, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE the Magistrates and other Inhabitants of the Town of York, are happy in having an opportunity of paying that respect which we owe to your Excellency, & of offering our most sincere thanks and acknowledgements for the attention you have been pleased to shew to this Province.

The pride and pleasure which we feel from the behaviour of our gallant Militia, is greatly heightened when we consider that their conduct is honored with your approbation, and that you are pleased to testify your sense of their services, in ordering clothing for a considerable proportion of their number: an act of benevolence and humanity, which will make a deep and lasting impression on their minds, and stimulate them to preserve that high character which they have already acquired. But we should indeed be much wanting to your Excellency, as well as to ourselves, if we did not on this occasion, with gratitude acknowledge the obligations which this Province lays under to the valor and discipline of his Majesty's regular Forces, whose courage and conduct on the most trying emergencies, have done honor to the name and to the character of a British Soldier.

We are particularly gratified, (and offer our most sincere thanks and acknowledgements) for the vigorous exertions which have been made, and are still carrying on towards the strengthening our Provincial Marine, by order of your Excellency, fully convinced that to maintain a superiority on the Lakes is an object of the first importance to this Province.

Thankful for that success which has hitherto crowned his Majesty's arms under your command, we earnestly wish for its continuance, entertaining the pleasing hope, that by our own

conduct, and the exertion of our brave defenders, we in this Colony, by the blessing of God, may long remain under the protection of our Parent State a free, brave, and loyal People.

To which his Excellency was pleased to return the following Answer:
To the Magistrates and other Inhabitants of the Town of York.

GENTLEMEN,
I am highly sensible of your sincere

thanks and acknowledgements for the attention which you confer me to have evinced to the welfare and preservation of this valuable Province.

Not only my duty, but also the express Commands of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, govern my conduct, in regulating and improving those objects which excite your approbation, and in expressing the high respect I entertain of the gallant and patriotic behaviour of your Militia, I

express the Sentiments of your Sovereign, and your fellow subjects throughout his Majesty's empire, who admire and applaud the exertions of a free, brave and loyal people, manfully contending to preserve for themselves and their children the fostering protection of a virtuous, wise and powerful State.

Government House, York, Upper
Canada, March 3d, 1812.